

(c) Yes, Sir. Several high-yielding varieties of gram, arhar (pigeon pea) moong (green gram), urd (black gram), peas and cowpea have been developed and introduced which possess better yield potential and offer higher productivity per hectare.

(d) In addition to the introduction of high-yielding varieties, the following measures have been taken and are being intensified under the New Twenty Point Programme:

- (i) multiplication and use of improved seeds;
- (ii) distribution of minikits of all pulses;
- (iii) use of phosphatic fertilisers and treatment of seeds with rhizobium culture and other package of practices;
- (iv) adoption of plant protection measures;
- (v) increase of the area under summer pulses under irrigated condition; and
- (vi) launching a new campaign of inter-cropping arhar with kharif crops like soyabean, bajra, cotton, groundnut under both irrigated and rainfed conditions.

Passenger and Cargo ship service between the mainland and the Andamans and Nicobar Islands

*188. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passenger and cargo ship service between the mainland and the Andamans & Nicobar Islands and also between these Islands is very meagre and irregular;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Administration of these Islands and several public organisations have made demands for more and better ship service; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) The present passenger and Cargo ship service between the mainland and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and also between these Islands is not considered, by and large, inadequate.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To meet the increasing requirements, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration acquired a passenger vessel M.V. 'AKBAR' in April, 1982 for being operated on the mainland/Andaman service. A proposal to supplement the services by another ship for six months in a year is being examined.

As for inter-Island services, presently there are four vessels operating including a new vessel M.V. 'SENTINEL' acquired by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration on 28-7-1982. Another similar vessel is expected to be delivered by Mazagon Dock Ltd. by December, 1982. Besides, 23 vessels of various sizes are proposed to be acquired during 6th Five Year Plan by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

Promotion of Sanskrit in the country

189. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take for promotion of Sanskrit in the country; and